

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 122153

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ORIGIN MMS-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 AGR-10 PER-03 SS-15

SP-02 ABF-01 /065 R

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----- 056976

R 240133Z MAY 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS STATE 122153

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, IT, MX

SUBJECT: OPRED-USDA REQUEST TO TRANSFER ONE APHIS AMERICAN
POSITION FROM MEXICO TO ROME

1. WE HAVE A REQUEST FROM AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT (USDA)
TO TRANSFER ONE CURRENTLY VACANT AMERICAN POSITION FROM
APHIS PROGRAM IN MEXICO TO ASSIST APHIS VETERINARY SERVICES
UNIT AT ROME.

2. USDA LETTER READS INTER ALIA - QUOTE - THIS VETERINARY
SERVICES POST HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AND
MAINTAINING CONTACT WITH COUNTERPART AGENCIES IN EUROPE,
AFRICA, AND THE MIDDLE EAST. THE POST IS RESPONSIBLE FOR
OBTAINING MAJOR ANIMAL HEALTH DATA AND ALSO ADVISING
POTENTIAL SHIPPERS OF ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS OF
UNITED STATES IMPORT REGULATIONS. THE ASSIGNMENT OF
VETERINARIANS TO THE AREA GIVES US VALUABLE INFORMATION
ABOUT THE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF DISEASES WHICH ARE EXOTIC TO
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PAGE 02 STATE 122153

THE UNITED STATES AND WHICH, IF INTRODUCED INTO THE UNITED

STATES, WOULD POSE A MAJOR THREAT TO OUR LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY INDUSTRIES. THIS TYPE OF ASSIGNMENT ENABLES VETERINARIANS FROM THE UNITED STATES, BY ACTUALLY

WORKING WITH THE ANIMAL AND POULTRY DISEASES IN THESE COUNTRIES, TO GAIN FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE OF DISEASES WHICH WOULD BE NEEDED TO DEVELOP ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF COMBATING AND ELIMINATING THESE OUTBREAKS SHOULD THEY OCCUR HERE.

SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ROME POST IN 1968, NOT ONLY HAS WORLD COMMERCE INCREASED TWOFOLD, BUT ALSO THE IMPROVED COMMUNICATIONS WITH DEVELOPING NATIONS HAS CREATED ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND WORKLOAD FOR THIS POSITION. THE APPROVAL OF THIS ADDITIONAL ASSOCIATE REGIONAL VETERINARIAN POSITION, WHICH WOULD BE IDENTICAL TO THE ONE NOW AUTHORIZED IN ROME, WILL PROVIDE THE ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE NEEDED TO INSURE BETTER SURVEILLANCE OF OUTBREAKS OF ANIMAL AND POULTRY DISEASES THROUGHOUT EUROPE, AFRICA, AND THE MIDDLE EAST AND ALSO ENHANCE THE GATHERING OF OTHER ANIMAL HEALTH DATA THROUGHOUT THESE AREAS. THE INTRODUCTION OF VENEZUELAN EQUINE ENCEPHALOMYELITIS (VEE) AND EXOTIC NEWCASTLE DISEASE INTO THE UNITED STATES AND THE SUBSEQUENT EMERGENCIES WHICH RESULTED HAS EXEMPLIFIED THE NEED FOR ADEQUATELY TRAINED AND INFORMED PERSONNEL. END QUOTE.

3. IN LIGHT OF CONTINUAL CONCERN BY BOTH EXECUTIVE BRANCH AND CONGRESS TO RELATE USG OVERSEAS STAFFING TO PRIORITY REQUIREMENTS, DEPARTMENT HAS ENCOURAGED AGENCIES TO REPROGRAM EXISTING OVERSEAS POSITION RESOURCES INsofar AS POSSIBLE BEFORE SEEKING ADDITIONAL OPRED CEILING SPACE. THIS EXPLAINS IN PART USDA CHOICE OF UNFILLED POSITION MEXICO AS OFFSET.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENTS BY ADDRESSEE COMS CONCERNING USDA OFFSET PROPOSAL. ROME PLEASE COMMENT ON UNIT WORKLOAD PLUS ANY IMPACT ON MISSION ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT CAPABILITY. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE122153
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RGMAYS, JR.
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750183-0664
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750519/aaaaaqox.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN MMS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUL 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <02 FEB 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OPRED-USDA REQUEST TO TRANSFER ONE APHIS AMERICAN POSITION FROM MEXICO TO ROME
TAGS: AFSP, IT, MX
To: ROME MEXICO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006